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Urban District of Woodhall Spa

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1960



WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A n n u a l R e p o r t
o f t h e
M e d i c a l O f f i c e r o f H e a l t h
1 9 6 0

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

D.A. NORMAN, M.A.P.H.I.

(Appointed July, 1957).

The Highways, Sewerage and Public Health Committees deal with the majority of Public Health Matters although a separate Water Committee and Parks and Playing Fields Committee deal with water supplies and swimming baths.

All members of the Council sit on all Committees.

To The Chairman and Members of
The Urban District Council of Woodhall Spa.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

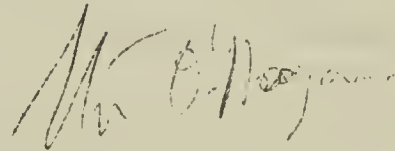
I have the honour to present the Annual Report of your
Medical Officer of Health for 1960.

It is difficult to write an inspiring report of
progress year after year in a small district, especially
when one sees so little of it. Perhaps it is better that
way. In a world of bulldozers, earth movers and H - bombs a
quiet place sheltered from the worst of the physical and
political weather may well claim to be a Spa.

Probably few outside the Council Offices realize how
much effort each Councillor puts into the thousand items
which each year come before him.

1960 can be described as an average year in respect
of health, with births, deaths, infectious diseases all
very much as usual. The regrettable exception is the
outbreak of Whooping Cough after a virtual absence of
several years. It is possible that some cases may have
been in children whose immunization had been delayed by
the urge to get "Polio".

I remain, Sirs,
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

Area of Urban District:	1874 acres
Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate of Resident Population:	2150
Density of Population:	1.14
Number of Inhabited Dwellings:	648
Rateable Value of Urban District:	£23,541
Sum Represented by Penny Rate:	£91. 4. 1.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
<u>Live Births</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>30</u>
Rate per 1000 population	17.6	13.9
Illegitimate live births % total	Nil	3% (i.e.1)
<u>Still Births</u>		
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	Nil	Nil
Total live and still births	38	30

DEATHS

	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
Male	21	20	29
Female	<u>31</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>23</u>
Total	<u>52</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>52</u>
Deaths per 1000 population	24.0		
Standardized Death Rate per 1000	14.6		
National (England and Wales Death Rate) per 1000	11.5		

Deaths were distributed according to age as shown in the table :-

Age at Death

0-1	1-5	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	over 84
1	0	0	1	0	1	4	5	11	23	11

Causes of death at ages under 75 years as follows :-

Prematurity	1
Road Accident	3
Other Accidents	1
Coronary Thrombosis	5
Cancer of Lung	1
Cancer of Stomach	1
Cancer of Brain	1
Myocarditis	1
Lymphatic Leukaemia	1
Arteriosclerosis	3
Nephritis	1
Cerebral heamorrhage	1
Bronchopneumonia	1

Causes of Death as shown in the Registrar General's Short List

Short

<u>List No.</u>	<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	0	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	2	3
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	3	6
18.	Coronary disease, angina	6	2	8
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	0	2	2
20.	Other heart diseases	3	4	7
21.	Other circulatory disease	3	1	4
22.	Influenza	0	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	1	2	3
24.	Bronchitis	0	0	0
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory System	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	0	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostrate	0	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	5	3	8
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
34.	All other Accidents	1	0	1
35.	Suicide	0	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
Total		29	23	52

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notification of infectious diseases during the year were as follows :-

Scarletina	2
Malaria	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	2
Dysentery	13
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	1
Non Pulmonary	1
Measles	5
Whooping Cough	14

The sharp increase in whooping cough is noticeable after a spell of almost complete freedom, and it coincides with a substantial step-up in immunization. It suggests, therefore, that the lag in preventive measures against this disease and by inference, also against diphtheria and tetanus, which followed the intensive polio campaign, may be quite significant.

Small Pox vaccination was performed on 19 infants under one year of age whilst 38 infants were born in the preceding year. This is still not good enough to prevent death or disfigurement in the event of an outbreak.

Figures for poliomyelitis vaccination and B.C.G. (anti-tuberculosis) vaccination are still lacking but it is hoped that there may be made available in time for the next annual report.

Much of the difficulty appears to result from "blitz" programmes in which appointments are sent for persons to attend clinic in different towns, irrespective of the availability of transport. This was demonstrated years ago to the County Council in the case of Diphtheria immunization when within months of the inception of the scheme it became apparent that, apart from overall economy to the nation, as opposed to Lindsey County Council, the only efficient means of reaching a scattered community is to go to them, not expect them to come to you.

In the case of B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis, the majority are done either at Gartree Secondary Modern School, or at Horncastle Grammar School and it should not be of insuperable difficulty to obtain the information in tabular forms, since it is available in detail on each child's record card. It should be appreciated, however, that whether this work is done by a clerk or by myself, it takes time from other work and if multiplied sufficiently could involve extra staff and expense.

The following shows the preventive treatments given in Woodhall Spa during 1960 :-

	Under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15 & Over	Total
Smallpox - vaccination	19	2	0	3	24
- revaccination	0	1	3	10	14
Tetanus - Immunization	0	0	15	1	16
Whooping Cough & Tetanus Immunization	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough Immunization	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria & Tetanus Immunization	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria. Whooping Cough & Tetanus Combined (Triple) Immunization	34	6	0	0	40
Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunization	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria Immunization (alone)	0	0	1	0	1
" " (booster)	0	0	24	0	24

Mass Radiography

The first visit by the Mass Miniature Radiography unit, foreshadowed in the previous report has now taken place. Whilst the great bulk of films taken show no abnormality, there is a real advantage in getting early information about chest diseases. This applies not only to tuberculosis, but to heart diseases, growths in the chest, bronchitis and so on.

Whilst Woodhall is almost too small for the big unit to work efficiently, two years ago a smaller unit was demonstrated to the Royal Society of Health Conference at Torquay which would be more efficient in the smaller communities of Lincolnshire. However, this is not a matter really within the competence of this Council.

The National Health Services Act, 1946

Substantially the Spa remains covered by one firm of general practitioners, one of whom is recognised as an authority on rheumatic disorders, and by one dentist, who was assisted for a time by one of the doctor's wives. Being a doctor's wife leaves no time for professional work until the children are all up to junior school age, at least; so that dental treatment is as everywhere, a problem, except for the sensible few who have made regular appointments and kept them.

Hospital beds are available only at Lincoln, Boston and Louth, all some 20 miles distant, and much the same applies to outpatient facilities. Railway transport to Boston and Lincoln exists, but there is no recognisable public transport to Louth.

The County Council Ambulance service appears to run efficiently, although, since ambulances are frequently diverted by radio, no patient can be sure of how long his journey will last, when it will start or end. The sitting cars or ambulance buses are, however, not so liable to diversion, although their routes must, necessarily, be variable, to gather as near a full complement as practical for each trip. That there is no lack of effort by the County Council is evidenced by the annual mileage of Ambulances and Ambulance cars, which has remained in the region of a million miles a year, for the last ten years. (This figure is, of course, for the whole of Lindsey).

Refuse Collection and Disposal

No significant difficulties have arisen during the year, although the long-term use of the existing site will need review. There are few alternative sites offering pits waiting to be filled.

The Swimming Pool

The open-air pool has continued to be so popular that its enlargement has been definitely decided.

Continuous filtration and chlorination, with comparator control of residual chlorine is maintained.

Housing

There remain two dwellings subject to closing orders. No fresh action was undertaken.

Building by the Council was not undertaken, and only six private dwellings were built.

It must be admitted that Woodhall Spa accommodates a larger proportion of retired persons, on fixed incomes, to whom "change" is unwelcome and who would not wish to take advantage of the improvement grants.

The Caravan Sites Act, 1960

Although causing major concern to many authorities, there was need for little action in Woodhall Spa.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

No action was required under this section in 1960.

Food Hygiene

It is evident that minor infringements of the law continue to occur, on a small scale. These have not resulted in any injury to health, and are more of a nuisance to the Inspector than anything else.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

The Spa is a relatively sheltered spot in a rather wind-swept county, by reason of its wooded environment. Obviously, every effort must be made both by the authority and private owners, to conserve the woodlands.

Water Supply

Water supply under the Council's control remained cheap, abundant and pure.

Sewage Disposal

Sewage Disposal has always been relatively expensive and not wholly satisfactory because the bulk of the pipes were laid very deep, in running sand, and jointed with clay.

Many surface-water drains are also believed to enter sewers so that in wet weather the total flow reaches phenomenal proportions. Further works of improvement and repair are carried out as circumstances suggest. The radical solution would appear to be utterly beyond the means of a district council such as this.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR

HOUSING:

Total number of houses erected during the year :-

(1) by local authority	-
(2) by other local authorities	-
(3) by other bodies or persons	6

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 - 1957 :-

(1) Number of certificates of disrepair issued	-
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Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :-

(1) (a) total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	29
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	45

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	9
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(1) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	-
(2) Proceedings under the Housing Acts	-
(3) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts:-	
(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made (individual unfit houses only)	-
(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (individual unfit houses only)	-
(c) Number of dwelling houses, or parts, subject to Closing Orders	2
(d) Number of dwelling houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings	-
(e) Number of dwelling houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders	-
(f) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance thereof	-
(g) Total number of dwelling houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and which are still occupied except under the provisions of Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	-
(h) Total number of dwelling houses occupied under Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	-
(i) Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure	2

Housing Acts - Overcrowding

(a) (1)	number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	-
(2)	number of persons concerned in such cases	-
(b) (1)	number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	2
(2)	number of families dwelling therein	2
(3)	number of persons dwelling therein	17

Housing Acts, 1949 - 59

	number of dwellings for which applications for grants have been received - Standard	2
	- Discretionary	9
	number of dwellings subject to grant - Standard	2
	- Discretionary	9
	number of houses owned by local authority which have been the subject of grant aid by the Ministry	-

Moveable dwellings, tents, vans, etc.

	number of site licences	2
	number of individual licences	1
	total number of caravans permitted under licences	13
	number of inspections during the year - sites	14
	- dwellings	3
	number of contraventions remedied	2

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses

	number in district	2
	number of inspections	3
	number of contraventions	1
	defects remedied	1

Milk Supplies

	number of distributors on register	
	Sterilized	3
	Pasteurised	3
	T.T.	3
	N/D	-
	number of samples of milk taken in course of delivery	-
	number of inspections of dairy premises	3
	contraventions remedied	-

Ice Cream

number of manufacturers on register	2
number of premises licenced for sale of ice cream	9
number of inspections of premises made	12
number of contraventions found	-
contraventions remedied	-
number of samples taken - Grade I	-
- Other Grades	-

Meat Products

number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	1
number of inspections made	2
number of contraventions found	1
contraventions remedied	1

Other Food Premises

number of inspections made	9
number of contraventions found	4
contraventions remedied	4

Slaughterhouses

number of licenced - abattoir type	-
- private individual	-
number operated by local authority	-

UN SOUND FOOD

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part	-
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Other condemned foods	-
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Method of disposal - incineration

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGEClosets

number of houses with privy vaults in district	1
number of houses with pail closets in district	4
number of houses with water closets in district	640
number of water closets substituted for pail closets or privy vaults	-

Cesspools and Septic Tanks

number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleansed, etc.	4
number of cesspools and septic tanks abolished	-

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewers or where existing sewage arrangements improved :- -

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved :- -

Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for public health reasons :- No

WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic

number of houses supplied from public mains - in house	645
- standpipe	3
number of houses supplied from private sources	0
new sources of supply and location	0
number of public supplies closed	0
Any part of district requiring public supply or replacement of public supply for public health reasons	No
number of samples taken for chemical examination	0
number of samples taken for bacteriological examination :-	
Class I - 4. Class II - 0. Class III - 0.	

Swimming Pools

number of public swimming pools in operation	1
number fitted with continuous mechanical filtration and chlorination	1
number of samples of swimming pool water taken for chemical examination	0
number of samples of swimming pool water taken for bacteriological examination - satisfactory	0
- unsatisfactory	0

GENERAL

Offensive Trades

number of premises in district	0
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Knackers Yards

number licenced	0
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Shops Act, 1950

number of shops inspected	6
contraventions remedied	0

Disinfection and disinfection

Rooms or premises disinfected (a) infectious diseases other than tuberculosis	1
(b) tuberculosis	"
number of premises subject to disinfection	1

Refuse Collection and Disposal

number of premises from which refuse is collected	680
frequency of collection	7 - 9 days
Method of disposal	controlled tipping
Is this satisfactory?	Yes
Is collection by local authority or contract	L.A.

Nuisances

Total number of nuisances during the year	
(1) abated as a result of informal action by Public Health Inspector	32
(2) Reported to the Council - Statutory notice issued	-
- Statutory notice not issued	-

Details of nuisances abated

	<u>After Informal Intimation</u>	<u>After Statutory notice</u>
Refuse	4	-
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	11	-
Drainage	10	-
Poultry and animals	3	-
Dangerous premises	-	-
Miscellaneous nuisances	4	-

Rats and Mice Destruction

number of rodent operatives employed	1 part time
number of premises treated - dwelling houses	24
- other premises	27
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the district?	No

Atmospheric pollution

number of visits	0
number of nuisances found	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

PART I of the Act - inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecution
1. factories in which secs. 1 - 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	1	4	0	0
2. factories not included in (1) in which sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority	9	16	0	0
3. other premises in which sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	10	20	0	0

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were		Number of cases in which prosecutions were inst.
	Found	Remedied	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences :-			
Insufficient	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-
Other offences against the act	2	2	-
TOTAL	3	2	-

